

## CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1     1.    A method for run time ordering open tasks, comprising  
2     the steps of:  
  
3         providing for each open task a task tab sequentially  
4         ordered in a status line; and  
  
5         responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,  
6         reordering the sequential order of said status line.
- 1     2.    The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
  
2         providing a linked list of tab elements, with a tab  
3         element associated with each said task tab and task  
4         content; and  
  
5         said reordering step comprising the step of adjusting  
6         back pointers and next pointers of said tab element to  
7         reposition said first tab element from a drag position

8 to a drop position within said linked list.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
2 displaying in an application content window task  
3 content corresponding to a current selected task tab.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:  
2 responsive to user selection of a new task tab of  
3 displaying task content corresponding to said new task  
4 tab in said application content window.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:  
2 responsive to user selection of a first key  
3 combination, displaying task content corresponding to a  
4 next sequential task in said application content  
5 window.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:  
2 responsive to user selection of a second key  
3 combination, displaying task content corresponding to a  
4 previous sequential task in said application content

5 window.

1 7. The method of claim 2, said task being a document.

1 8. The method of claim 2, said task being a web page.

1 9. The method of claim 2, said task being a database.

1 10. The method of claim 2, said task being a spread sheet.

1 11. System for run time ordering open tasks, comprising:

2 a status bar;

3 a plurality of task tabs presented in said status bar  
4 in sequential order, with a task tab for each open task  
5 within an open application;

6 a content window for displaying task content associated  
7 with a current selected task tab;

8 a linked list of tab elements, with a tab element  
9 associated with each said task tab and task content;  
10 and

11 a task tab order component responsive to user drag and  
12 drop of a given task tab for moving said given task tab  
13 from a drag position in said status bar to a drop  
14 position in said status bar.

1 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

2 a mouse device operable by a user for selecting a  
3 current task tab.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

2 a first key operable by said user for incrementing said  
3 selected task tab to a next tab in said sequential  
4 order; and

5 a second key operable by said user for decrementing  
6 said selected task tab to a previous tab in said  
7 sequential order.

1 14. The system of claim 11, said task tab order component  
2 being operable to reorder said linked list of tab  
3 elements responsive to said user drag and drop.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine,

2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a  
3 machine to perform method steps for run time ordering open  
4 tasks, said method steps comprising:

5 providing for each open task a task tab sequentially  
6 ordered in a status line; and

7 responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,  
8 reordering the sequential order of said status line.

1 16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method  
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 providing a linked list of tab elements, with a tab  
4 element associated with each said task tab and task  
5 content; and

6 said reordering step comprising the step of adjusting  
7 back pointers and next pointers of said tab element to  
8 reposition said first tab element from a drag position  
9 to a drop position within said linked list.

1 17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step of:

3 displaying in an application content window task  
4 content corresponding to a current selected task tab.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 17, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step of:

3 responsive to user selection of a new task tab of  
4 displaying task content corresponding to said new task  
5 tab in said application content window.

1 19. The program storage device of claim 18, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step of:

3 responsive to user selection of a first key  
4 combination, displaying task content corresponding to a  
5 next sequential task in said application content  
6 window.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 19, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step of:

3 responsive to user selection of a second key  
4 combination, displaying task content corresponding to a  
5 previous sequential task in said application content  
6 window.

1 21. The program storage device of claim 16, said task being  
2 a document.

1 22. The program storage device of claim 16, said task being  
2 a web page.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 16, said task being  
2 a data base.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 16, said task being  
2 a spread sheet.

1 25. A computer program product or computer program element  
2 for ordering open tasks according to method steps  
3 comprising:

4 providing for each open task a task tab sequentially  
5 ordered in a status line; and

6 responsive to a user drag and drop of a first task tab,  
7 reordering the sequential order of said status line.